GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2611
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
ATTACKS ON DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some incidents of harassment, intimidation, beating and robberies of the personnel and families of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad have been reported;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported in 1998, 1999 and 2000; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such incidents do not recur?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) Pakistan intelligence agencies routinely resort to harassment and intimidation of the personnel and families of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. There were 23 cases of harassment/intimidation in 1998, 18 in 1999 and 20 in 2000. These included obstructive driving, aggressive and hostile surveillance, hurling of threats and abuses, tampering with motor vehicles, intrusion, break-ins, thefts, abduction, detention and beating and, in one reprehensible incident, attempt at molestation of minor children.

(c) Government have time and again lodged strong protests with the Government of Pakistan against these incidents of harassment and intimidation and the obvious role of its intelligence agencies in these. Government have also time and again reminded Pakistan of its responsibility to provide safety and security to the High Commission of India and its personnel under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and the bilateral Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan.